

Query response 6759 of 25 May 2009

Morocco: Situation of promiscuous women

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to ACCORD within time constraints and in accordance with ACCORD's methodological standards and the *Common EU Guidelines for processing Country of Origin Information (COI)*.

This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status, asylum or other form of international protection.

Please read in full all documents referred to.

Non-English language information is comprehensively summarised in English. Original language quotations are provided for reference.

Among the sources consulted by ACCORD within time constraints no specific information concerning the situation of promiscuous women could be found. The following reports contain information on the situation of women who are accused of offending family honour:

The US Department of State (USDOS) Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2008 of February 2009 provides the following information on honour crimes:

"Honor crimes, or assaults against women with the intent to kill, were a problem. Instead of strengthening the law after a campaign to end 'honor killings,' the government extended the same protection to wives who kill their husbands." (USDOS, 25 February 2009, Sec. 5)

In September 2008, French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) mentions that the United Nations reported incidences of "honour crimes" in a number of countries, including Morocco:

"Maha is one of hundreds, if not thousands, of women in Jordan and other conservative societies who rights groups say are killed every year by their male relatives in so-called honour crimes for 'sully' the reputation of their families. The United Nations has reported such crimes in Brazil, Britain, Ecuador, India, Israel, Italy, Sweden and Uganda as well as in Muslim nations such as Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey." (AFP, 2 September 2008)

In September 2008, German radio service Deutschlandfunk reports that having pre-marital sexual relationships is considered a sin in Moroccan society, and that women who have had such relationships may face prison sentences under allegations of prostitution. The report mentions the case of a 22-year old unmarried mother who was expelled from her family during her pregnancy:

„Schwer genug also, die bestehenden Gesetze durchzusetzen. Erst recht aber haben diejenigen keine Chance, die nach den religiösen Regeln als Sünderinnen gelten und die auch das neue Familienrecht noch nicht schützt. Zum Beispiel Sama Khouribga. [...] Die 22-Jährige schaut ihrem Sohn Noé beim Spielen zu. Er ist ein knappes Jahr alt. Heute kann Sama sich an seinem Gebrabbel freuen. Bei der Geburt ihres Sohnes war das anders. Denn Sama ist nicht verheiratet. Sex vor der Ehe gilt in Marokko als Sünde. Die Frauen riskieren sogar als angebliche Prostituierte zu einer Gefängnisstrafe verurteilt zu werden. Sama wurde noch während der Schwangerschaft von ihrer Familie verstoßen“ (Deutschlandfunk, 13 September 2008)

In its monthly report on the Maghreb region published in October 2008, the German Hanns Seidel Foundation states that women who become pregnant and give birth to their child are expelled from their families (Hanns Seidel Foundation, October 2008, p. 4)

Older information on honour killings can be found in a September 2004 query response by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) (IRB, 23 September 2004).

References: (all links accessed 25 May 2009)

- AFP – Agence France-Presse: Jordan 'honour killings' cover for other crimes, 2 September 2008
<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5h5r-5iGd2uDI-WbAAy3HgXUigyYA>
- Deutschlandfunk: 1001 Kämpfe für die Gleichberechtigung, 13 September 2008
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http://www.hss.de/downloads/0810_MB_Maghreb.pdf
- IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada: Morocco: Incidences of honour killings, recent cases and state protection (2004) [MAR43004.E], 23 September 2004
http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=431889
- USDOS - US Department of State: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 - Morocco, 25 February 2009
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/nea/119122.htm>